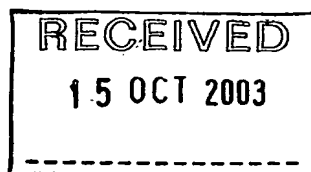




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**Your Reference:** PU<sub>0345</sub>  
**Application No:** GB 0311854.4  
13 October 2003

Dear Sirs

**Patents Act 1977: Search Report under Section 17(5)**

DUE DATE:	19/10/04
FORMALITIES:	SAW, RP
PAT. OFF:	BF
ON DB:	15/10/03
CASE NO:	PU0345

I enclose two copies of my search report and a copy of the citations.

**Publication**

I estimate that, provided you have met all the formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **19 October 2004**. At this time you will receive a letter confirming the exact date when the preparations for publication will be completed. This letter will also tell you the publication number and date of publication of your application.

**Withdrawal/amendment**

If you wish to withdraw your application before it is published you must do so before the preparations for publication are complete. **WARNING** - after preparations for publication are complete it will NOT be possible to withdraw your application from publication.

If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before 19 October 2004 please mark your letter prominently:

**"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT"**.

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†Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



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Application No: GB 0311854.4

Page 2

13 October 2003

Yours faithfully

Mike Leaning  
Examiner



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Application No: GB 0311854.4  
 Claims searched: 1-5

Examiner: Mike Leaning  
 Date of search: 10 October 2003

## Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

### Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
X	1	US 4891133 (COLVIN, Jr) Please see figure 1, column 3 lines 44-54 and column 4 lines 58-61.
A		US 5169522 (SHANLON et al.) Please see the figures, noting 'adaptor' 200, flexible member 399/500 and how it is rigidly fixed to end plate 300.
A		US 3966609 (GODBILLE et al.) Please see the figures, noting flexible conduit 15 connected to 'adaptor' 4.

### Categories:

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
& Member of the same patent family	B Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

### Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC<sup>v</sup>:

B1H

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC<sup>7</sup>:

B01D; G01N

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report:

Online: WPI, EPODOC, JAPIO.